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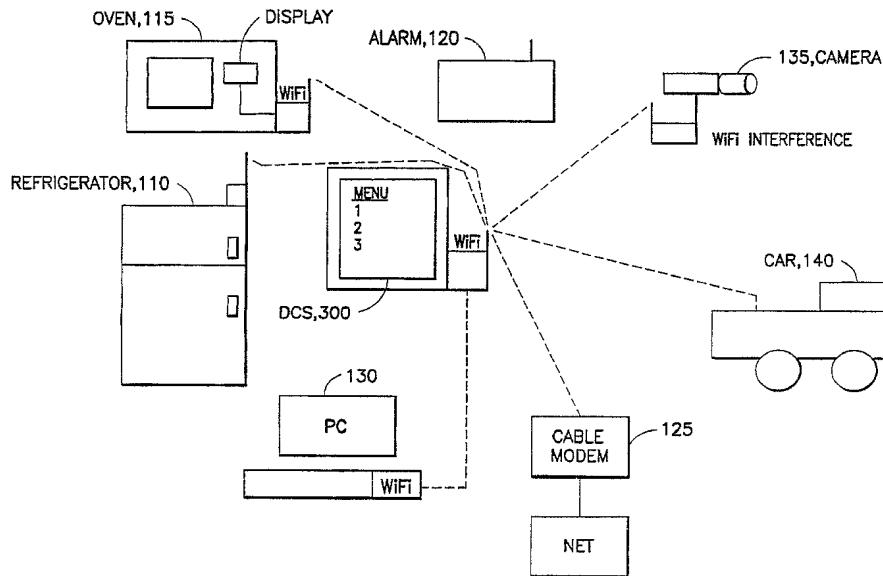
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(57) Abstract: Apparatus and method for providing a user with the ability to utilize a Data Collection Service (DCS) unit as a gateway for communicating with home or office devices, wherein manufacturers of home and office devices, as well as software developers, embed a second wired or RF interface in each device. This second interface, which supports standard protocols and user interface (UI) technology, such as tcp/ip, xml, html, Java and web browsers, is managed by the DCS unit or by a mobile device that integrates the DCS technology.